Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NICOSI 01798 211041Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 RSR-01 /141 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7718 INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY LONDON USMISSION UN

CONFIDENTIAL NICOSIA 1798

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT CY

SUBJECT: MORE MAKARIOS ON GRIVAS

REF: NICOSIA 1783

- 1. AFTER ASSERTING THAT GRIVAS OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE IS TO "ELIMINATE" HIM (REFTEL), MAKARIOS WENT ON IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AUG 16 TO CONSTRUCT A CASE THAT GRIVAS ACTIVITIES HAVE SERVED HISTORICALLY TO UNDERMINE THE POSITIVE EFFORTS THE ARCHBISHOP HAS UNDERTAKEN IN BEHALF OF CYPRUS. DURING THE EOKA STRUGGLE FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, GRIVAS WAS AWARE THAT MAKARIOS OPPOSED KILLINGS AND THAT ANTI-BRITISH ACTIVITY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SABOTAGE OF INSTALLATIONS AND NOT THE TERRORIZING AND KILLING OF PEOPLE. PROOF OF THIS, HE CONTENDED, RESTS IN THE EXISTENCE OF DOCUMENTS ("AT LEAST TWO") IN WHICH MAKARIOS IS REFERRED TO AS "THE GENERAL" AND WHICH REMIND EOKA RANKS THAT "THE GENERAL" WANTS RESTRAINT EXERCISED AGAINST BRITISH PERSONNEL.
- 2. CLAIMING THAT THESE DOCUMENTS CAME TO HIS ATTENTION ONLY MUCH LATER, MAKARIOS ADDUCED THAT THEY SERVE TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NICOSI 01798 211041Z

DEMONSTRATE THAT GRIVAS RESORTING TO TERRORISM AND BLOOD-

SHED MADE HIS EFFORTS IN NEGOTIATING DIRECTLY WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT, EVEN THOUGH, HE ADMITTED SLYLY, THAT AS A NEGOTIATOR HE ALWAYS HELD OUT FOR MORE THAN HE EXPECTED TO GET. WHAT WAS PARTICULARLY TRAGIC, HE ARGUED, WAS THAT THE BRITISH WERE IN THE PROCESS THEN OF GRANTING INDEPENDENCE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD AND DID SO IN DIFFERENT PLACES WITHOUT THE SUFFERING AND COSTS OF THE STRUGGLE IN CYPRUS.

- 3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, MAKARIOS CLAIMED THAT AN ACTION BY GRIVAS FORCES TRIGGERED HIS EXILE IN 1956. PREPARING FOR A CRITICAL NEGOTIATING MEETING (INVOLVING CONTROL OF THE POLICE) WITH THE THEN GOVERNOR HARDING AND COLONIAL SECRETARY LENNOX-BOYD, MAKARIOS LEARNED AN HOUR BEFORE THE MEETING THAT GRIVAS PLANNED SOME BOMBINGS THAT NIGHT. MAKARIOS ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE ORDER COUNTERMANDED, BUT FAILED FOR LACK OF TIME. BY THE END OF THE MEETING, HE SAID, HARDING AND LENNOX-BOYD HAD LEARNED OF THE BOMBING AND THAT NIGHT, MAKARIOS CONCLUDED, THEY DECIDED TO RECOMMEND HIS DEPARTATION. A WEEK LATER OSTENSIBLY LEAVING NICOSIA AIRPORT FOR ATHENS HE WAS SHUNTED TO ANOTHER PLANE WHICH PUT HIM IN EXILE IN THE SEYCHELLES.
- 4. COMMENT: WHETHER THE FOREGOING REPRESENTS A SLICE OF REVISIONIST HISTORY OR NOT, IT FITS (OR IS MADE TO FIT) MAKARIOS CONTINUING DETERMINATION TO DISCREDIT GRIVAS. WE HEAR THAT HE HAS TAKEN THE SAME LINE, ALTHOUGH IN LESS PERSONALIZED WAY, WITH OTHERS IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HERE. THE LINE IS BEING ORCHESTRATED TOGETHER WITH A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FROM THE PIO OFFICE WHICH DESCRIBES GRIVAS NOW AS "ON THE RUN."

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